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C E N T R A L I N T E L L I G E N C E A G E N C Y

24 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Release of NIE 100-5-56 to Certain Foreign Governments

1. The Board of National Estimates has reviewed NIE 100-5-56, "Chinese Communist Capabilities in the Taiwan Straits Area and Probable Courses of Action over the Next Six Months," with a view to its release to certain foreign governments and regards the following considerations as pertinent:

a. Precedent. Estimates on this general subject matter recently released by the IAC [REDACTED] 25X1C

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[REDACTED] include: SNIE 100-4-56, "Possibility of Chinese Communist Military Action Against Certain Offshore Islands," 10 April 1956, and NIE 13-56, "Chinese Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action Through 1960," 5 January 1956. Moreover, Watch Committee references to the threat of hostilities in the area are [REDACTED] 25X1C

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b. Classification and Sources. The present estimate refers to no specific intelligence sources and does not compromise NOFORN materials originating with this Agency. We are not able to determine whether there would be a compromise of sources or NOFORN materials for which other agencies are primarily responsible.

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[REDACTED]

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With respect to substantive content otherwise, the Board perceives no objection, from an intelligence standpoint, to the release of this estimate.

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d. Other Considerations. The Board believes that a significant factor favoring release is the fact that this estimate deals primarily with Chinese Communist intentions and capabilities, which is a type of intelligence we previously have disseminated [redacted] (e.g., NIE 13-56 and SNIE 100-4-56). Also, since this estimate was designed in part to supersede SNIE 100-4-56, which was released to those countries, it might be important to keep those governments apprised that the earlier estimate no longer represents the latest US official thinking on the subject.

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2. Conclusion.

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On the basis of the above considerations, [redacted]

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[redacted] subject to review by other agencies of the issue of compromise of intelligence sources and NOFORN materials, the Board perceives no objection, from an intelligence viewpoint, to the release of this estimate [redacted]

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[redacted] and recommends such release.

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[redacted]
Deputy Assistant Director
National Estimates

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